

**Remarks**

Reconsideration and allowance of this application, as amended, are respectfully requested.

The written description portion of the specification, claims 1-17, and the abstract of the disclosure have been editorially amended. Claims 1-17 remain pending in the application. Claim 1 is independent. The objections and the sole rejection are respectfully submitted to be obviated in view of the amendments and remarks presented herein. No new matter has been introduced through the foregoing amendments.

The specification has been editorially amended for conformance with 37 CFR § 1.77(c), for consistency, and to correct any informalities. The abstract has been editorially amended for conformance with 37 CFR § 1.72(b). The claims have been amended to overcome each ground of objection, and, in general, to more fully comply with U.S. practice. Entry of each of the amendments is respectfully requested.

35 U.S.C. § 102(b) - Middelberg '483

Claims 1-17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Pub. No. 2003/0012838 of Middelberg (now issued as U.S. Patent No. 7,090,483, therefore hereinafter "Middelberg '483" ).

The rejection under § 102(b) based on Middelberg '483 is respectfully traversed. For at least the following reasons, the

disclosure of Middelberg '483 does not anticipate Applicants' claimed invention.

Claim 1 has been amended in response to the examiner's objection to the use of the "can be" language (Office Action page 2, numbered paragraph 4). Accordingly, instant claim 1 even more specifically defines the required elements of the claimed structure.

Middelberg '483's extruder is structurally and functionally different from Applicants' claimed invention. Middelberg '483 simply fails to teach each of the elements of Applicants' claimed extruder device. For example, one required element of the embodiment of the invention defined by claim 1 is that the "detachable torque-transmitting elements include[e] a torque transmission point, at which torque is transmitted from a bushing to a connecting section." And, an important feature of the claimed invention is that "the bushing [is] fastened on a face side of the rotor," and that "the torque transmission point [is] located, in an axial direction, outside the rotor."

In contrast, Applicants respectfully submit that Middelberg '483 fails to teach, *inter alia*, the aforementioned elements. See, e.g., Middelberg '483's Figures 1 and 2, and the disclosure that "[t]he extruder screw 2 is connected rigidly to the rotor 8 of the drive unit 3" (column 2, lines 40-42). There is no teaching in Middelberg '483 of each of Applicants' aforementioned required elements.

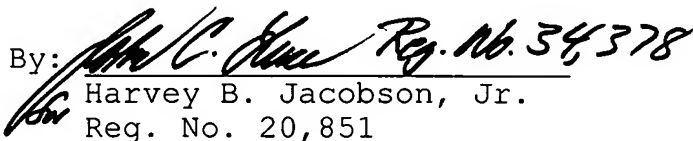
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Since Middelberg '483 does not meet each feature of the claimed invention, Middelberg '483 does not anticipate the invention defined by Applicants' claim 1. Claims 2-17 are allowable because they depend, either directly or indirectly, from claim 1, and for the subject matter recited therein.

In view of the foregoing, this application is now in condition for allowance. If the examiner believes that an interview might expedite prosecution, the examiner is invited to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: August 20, 2009